



THE EARLY WORM
Of Unhappy Memory.

2464
4461

signed II at end

1.
Oft hath been told the ancient tale,



Yclept: 'ye early bird,'
But with great naughtiness, the facts
Have been but half averred.

2.

Once on a time, a little worm,
—Thus should the story run,—
Arose with unsuspecting trust
To greet the rising sun.

PRINTED, 1881.

R. A. Manners & N. J. J. J. J.

NY per

(1881)

PS2359
M692E3

3.

*Forth from his snug retreat he set,
—Hard by a moss-grown wood,—
And whistled gaily as he went,
—Or would have if he could!*

4.

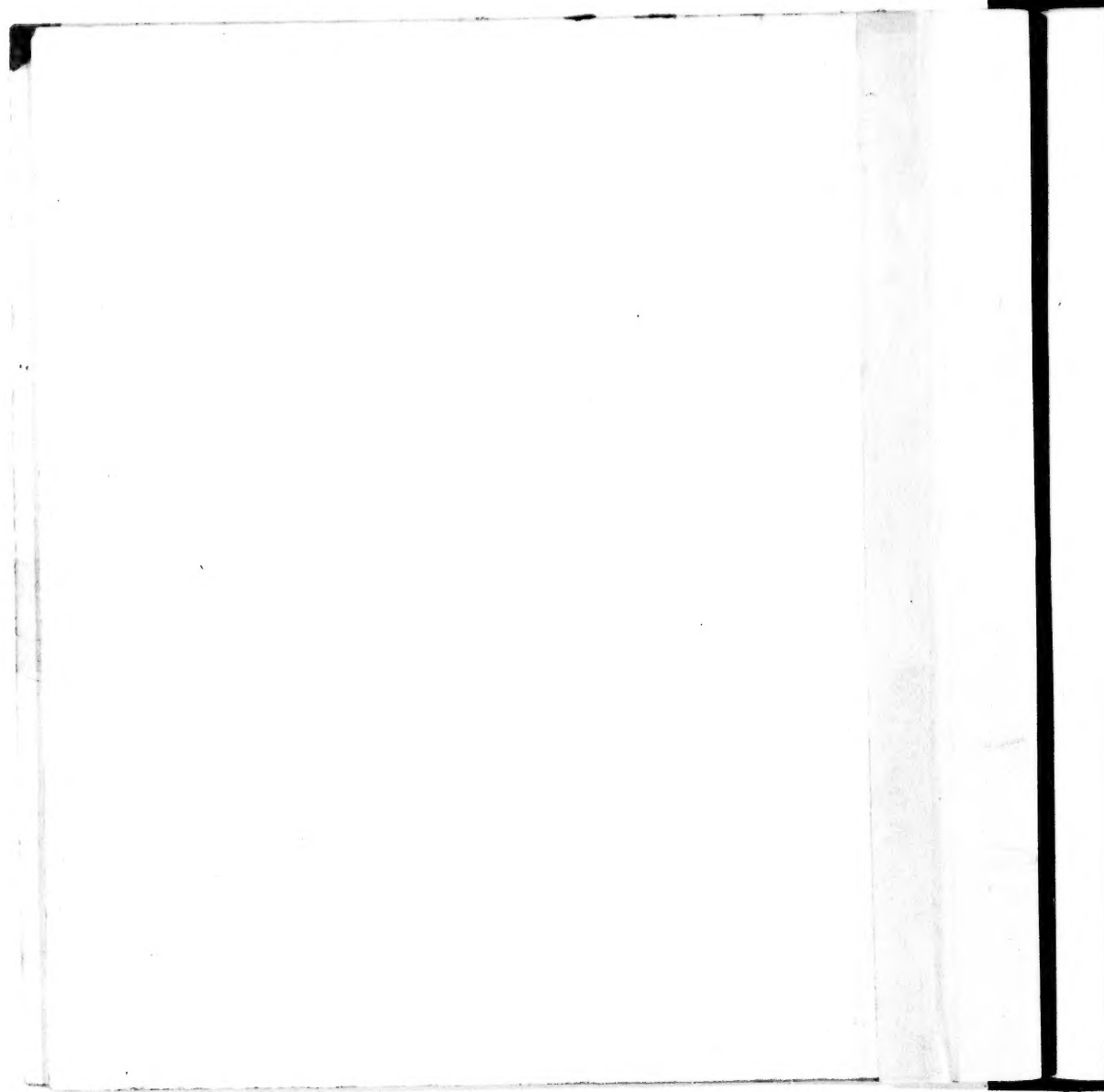
*He gained the mead, and soon upon
A fallen log he gat,
Which well he knew, for oft thereon
In the warm sun he sat*

5.

*And slept, curled in a little ball
—For be it known that he
Was not a common worm, but of*



The old Grub Family!

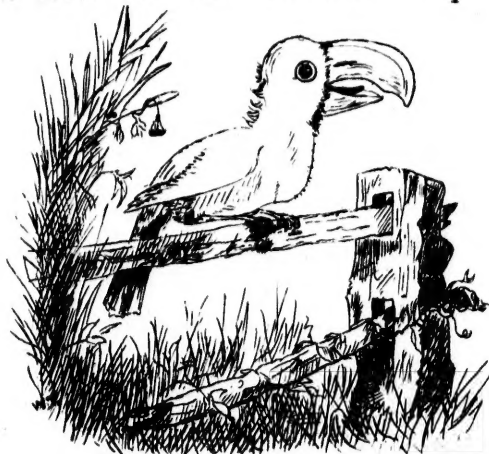


6.

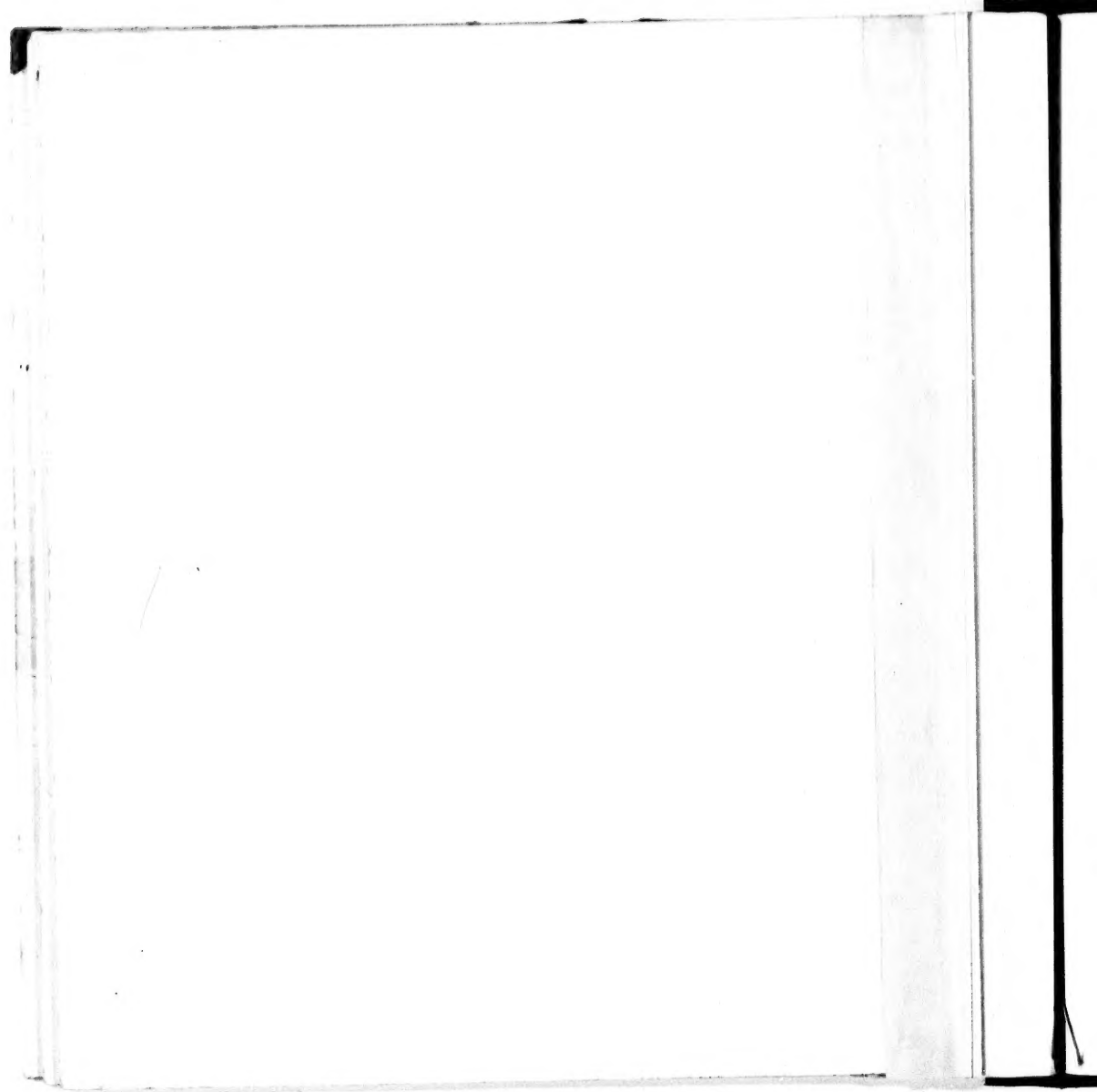
*Full pleased was he with his own self,
And as the sun arose,
He felt like juveniles who feel
Too big for their small clo'es.*

7.

But soon into his ear there crept

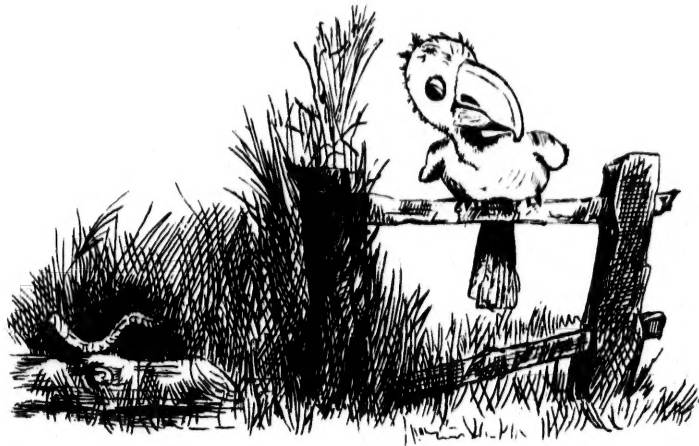


*A bird's soft minstrelsy,
Which tickled him, till he 'fell to'
And -capered sportively!*

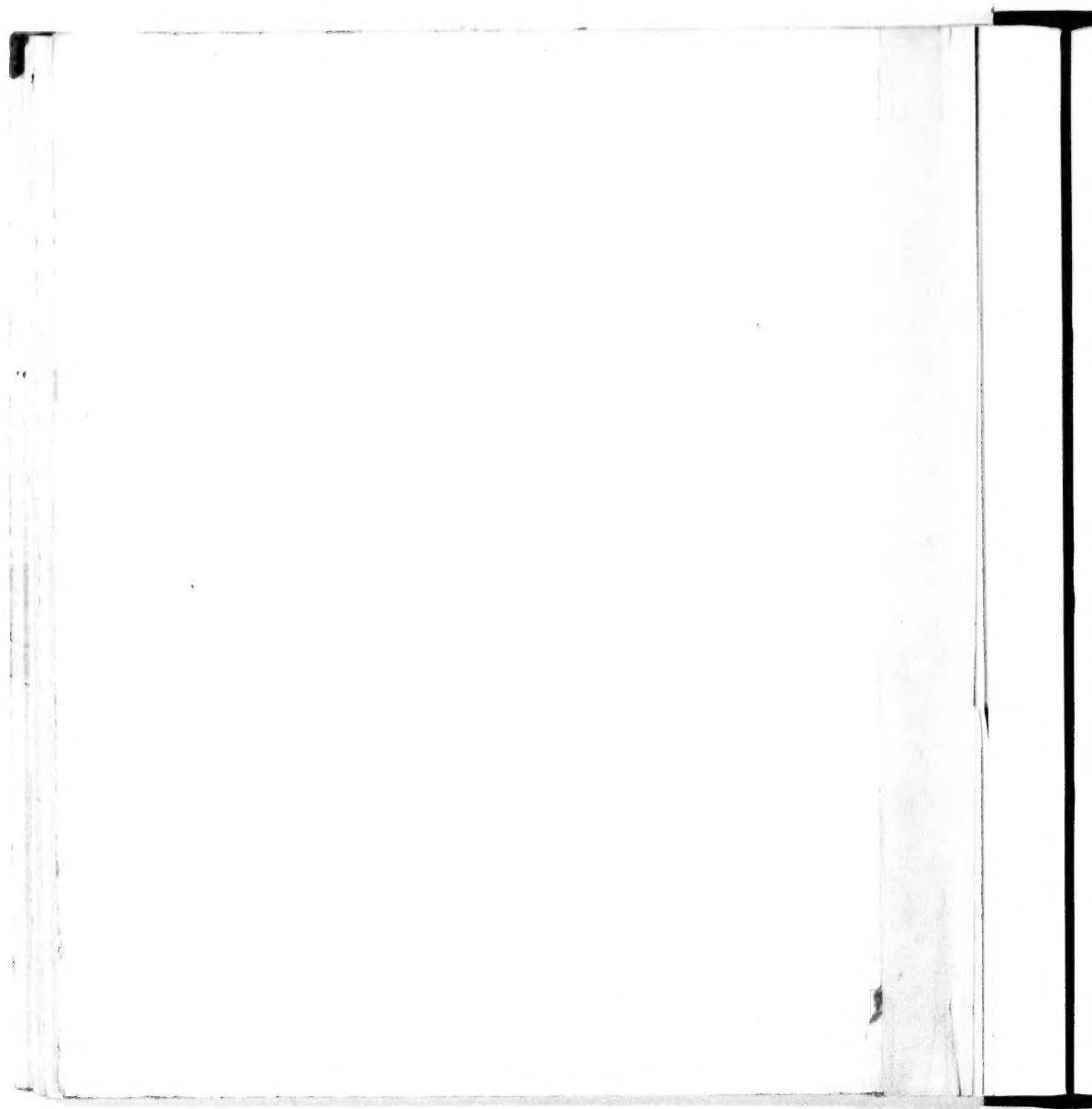


8.

Alack the day!



*The warbler spied
The all too giddy mite;
And while he loved to trill right well
A worm was his delight.*



9.
*He dropped his song -the better on
His helpless prey to drop;*



*Then, though his victim strove to fly,
He popped him in his crop.*

10.

*Thus it befel; that early worm
So good, so prompt at morn,
Was by his very virtues thus
From life and pleasure torn.*

11.

*Yet but himself to blame, for if
He had but kept his bed,
To rise betimes, some other worm
Would have been swallow-ed!*

M.

